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Blessed Sacrament

602 Sycamore Street • Owensboro, KY 42301 • 270-926-4741

www.blessedsacramentchapel.org or email at pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Mission Statement:

Established in the Spirit of Jesus Christ with an Afro-centric focus, Blessed Sacrament Chapel is committed to spreading the "Word" through fellowship and good works.

Sunday Mass: 10:00AM

St. Stephen Cathedral Parish Office: 270-683-6525

Pastor: Father John Thomas

jthomas@sscobo.org

Parochial Vicar: Father Shibu Cheriankunnel

moc_scheriyankunnel@sscobo.org

Parish Life Coordinator: Sr Jeannette Fennwald,
SSND pa@blessedsacramentchapel.org

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

And when they arrived, they called the church together and reported what God had done with them (Acts 14:27)

Psalm:

I will praise your name for ever, my king and my God. (Ps 145)

Second Reading:

"Behold, God's dwelling is with the human race. He will dwell with them and they will be his people" (Rv 21:4)

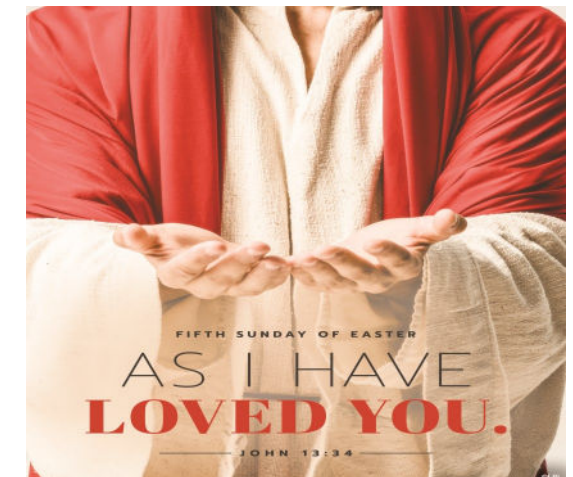
Gospel:

I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. (Jn 13:34)
from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.



May 18, 2025 5th Sunday of Easter

Behold I make all things new. (Rev. 5:21)



The Jubilee Prayer

Father in heaven,
may the faith you have gifted us in
your son Jesus Christ, our brother,
and the flame of charity
kindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit,
reawaken in us, the blessed hope
for the coming of your Kingdom.

May your grace transform us
into diligent cultivators of the evangelical seeds
that make humanity and the cosmos rise
unto the confident expectation
of the new heavens and the new earth,
when with the powers of Evil overcome,
your glory shall be manifested eternally.

May the grace of the Jubilee
reawaken in us, Pilgrims of Hope,
the yearning for heavenly treasures
and pour over all the earth
the joy and peace
of our Redeemer.

To you God blessed in eternity,
be praise and glory for ever and ever.

My Dear Parishioners:

We may wonder whether this Last-Supper commandment of Jesus to love one another is really all that *new*. After all, he could point to an Old Testament requirement to love my neighbor as myself (Lev 19:18). The clearest new element is that we are to love just as Jesus loved us, and that was totally, to the last drop of his blood, poured out on the hill of Calvary. Another sense in which the Christian commandment to love is new is in the breadth of the definition of who is my neighbor, whom I should love. In the parable of the Good Samaritan it appears that now everyone is my neighbor – even those of different nationality or religion. So now, love for our neighbor is very demanding, and goes beyond all racism or prejudice.

The really hard question is whether such love is possible. While giving a hesitant yes to this as a possibility, it is clear that most of us, most of the time clearly fail to live this new commandment fully. We can only love in this way by cooperating very generously with the grace of God. But the power to do is made possible by the New Covenant set up by Christ, and because we have the living presence of the risen Jesus always with us, to help us love in his way.

Of course there are difficult situations where it is very demanding to love our neighbor as ourselves or even to love our neighbor in any way at all. In the face of Islamic extremism or any other form of terrorism, or in time of war, we are strongly tempted to dehumanise the enemy and regard them as no longer part of the human family, and so unworthy of any kind of love or respect. But Jesus' commandment to love, and his own example of forgiving those who crucified him, constantly call us to reconsider things and seek for reconciliation rather than total victory.

In the end, it is only when working with the grace of God that we can love our neighbor as ourselves in this new way. It is only by living every day with Jesus that we can love our neighbor as ourselves in this new way. Can we live our day in such a way that we are in communion with Jesus in some way all day? It is only by living our day with Jesus that we can love as he loved. It is only by living close to Jesus that we can love as Jesus asked us. If not, we will be relying only on our human efforts alone, and we will love with some other type of love but not the unconditional love Jesus asked for when he said, "I give you a new commandment: love one another as I have loved you."

Blessings, Fr. John

PS – I encourage everyone to read this and replace the word 'neighbor' with 'family'



Cardinal Robert F. Prevost, the 69-year-old Chicago-born prefect of the Dicastery for Bishops under Pope Francis, was elected the 267th pope May 8 and took the name Pope Leo XIV. He is the first North American to be elected pope. When he came out onto the balcony to greet the crowds in St. Peter's Square, he spoke of Christ's peace, the call to be missionary disciples and his commitment to continue to build a more synodal church.

Brothers, sisters... I speak to you, especially to those who no longer believe, no longer hope, no longer pray, because they think God has left. To those who are fed up with scandals, with misused power, with the silence of a Church that sometimes seems more like a palace than a home. I too was angry with God. I too saw good people die, children suffer, grandparents cry without medicine. And yes...there were days when I prayed and only felt an echo.

But then I discovered something: God doesn't shout. God whispers. And sometimes He whispers from the mud, from pain, from a grandmother who feeds you without having anything. I don't come to offer you a perfect faith. I come to tell you that faith is a walk with stones, puddles, and unexpected hugs. I'm not asking you to believe in everything. I'm asking you not to close the door. Give a chance to the God who waits for you without judgment.

I'm just a priest who saw God in the smile of a woman who lost her son...and yet she cooked for others. That changed me. So if you're broken, if you don't believe, if you're tired of the lies...come anyway. With your anger, your doubt, your dirty backpack. No one here will ask you for a VIP card. Because this Church, as long as I breathe, will be a home for the homeless, and a rest for the weary. God doesn't need soldiers. He needs brothers. And you, yes you...are one of them. Robert Prevost (Leo XIV)

May Birthdays

8--Mary Ann Terry
12--Cindy Clark, Brent Hatchett
14--Steve Coble
18--Tina McHenry
19--Lad Ottofy
20--Christian Trevor
22--Charles Brown SR.
29--Diane Hatchett
30--Karen Leachman
31--Barbara Hammond, Layson

Brooks



Catholic Charities Special Collection. Our diocese has been struck recently with catastrophic flooding and hailstorms. Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Owensboro is responding to the disasters and will be assisting in counties identified by the commonwealth for receiving FEMA assistance. Those counties include: Bullitt, Barren, Butler, Calloway, Christian, Grayson, Green, Hardin, Hart, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Jefferson, LaRue, Logan, McCracken, McLean, Meade, Muhlenberg, Nelson, Ohio, Spencer, Trimble, Union, Warren, and Washington. Some in-kind donations have been received, but the need is far greater than the resources currently on-hand. Bishop Medley is asking that a special collection be taken up in all parishes the week-end of **May 17-18, 2025.**

Learn to give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you'll have no time for criticism of others.

Mass Intentions

May 4--Michael Bogdan
May 11--Larry Allen
May 18--Larry Allen
May 25--Sam Thurston
June 1--Barbara Jones

Let us remember to pray for those who have recently died or those in the process of dying. Remember to pray for the souls in purgatory, especially for those who have no one to pray for them.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the sick: , **Barbara Bisel, Harry Irving Bates, Charlotte Hagan, Kathi Skidd,** Ray Higgs, Debbie Gabbert, Pam Wilson, Emma Latta, Phil Armendarez, Cindy Heckmann, Judy Stinett, Shaun Winchell, China Dulin, Rachel Mattingly, Charlie Brown Sr, Steven Moorman, Philip Moorman, Jr., Ronnie Hollis, Chandra Hagan, Larry Clark, Ruth Coble, Carol Hatchett, Jordan Gertisen, Shelby Webster, Andy Evans, Gary Moorman. **If you know of anyone who is in need of prayer or visitation, please notify the office.**

LIFE AS GIFT

Jesus comes to us in the Eucharist. Pope Francis says, in order that we may ourselves become a gift to others, especially the poorest and neediest. The call to go forth at the end of Mass is just that--a summons to take the gift we have received and share it. When we leave the church building nourished and (it is hoped!) filled with new purpose, this is where our thanksgiving, our Eucharist, takes wing. As Jesus gave his life for us, so we are to do for others. It's perfectly fine to start small--sometimes an unbidden kind word or a smile.

Coming Events



Blessed Sacrament Happenings

**May 31--Deacon Conrad's
Ordination 10 am. SSC**

**June 8--Father Shibu's last
Sunday at BSC**



May 11--\$1,438.50

Budget--\$1,300

MTD Collection--\$2,690.50

MTD Budget--\$1,300

YTD Collection--\$62,420.39

YTD Budget--\$58,500

May each give according to what
the Lord has blessed us with.

*Thanks to everyone who practices
stewardship on a regular basis.
An active parishioner attends Mass regularly and practices stewardship
(time, talent, treasure).*

GOSPEL MEDITATION

I've always found it amazing that Jesus never says to his disciples the straightforward and bumper stickery words "I love you" or "I will always love you" (a la Dolly Parton's song). Why doesn't Jesus say, "I love you"?

Well, actually he does, but in particular ways. He says, **"As the Father loves me, so I love you"** (John 15:9) thereby rooting his love for us in the space of the Holy Trinity. This week he commands, **"Love another as I have loved you"** (John 13:34). He presents his love for us as a completed action which continues into the present moment. How *has* he loved us? By becoming one of us, one with us, and finally giving his life for us in his suffering on the cross. We weren't there when he did that, but neither were his Apostles (except one). Still, that action is his great "I love you" to us.

His love is also hedged in a command: **"Love one another."** So how can we practically follow it? The great St. John XXIII wrote in his diary that each day he followed this rule: "Only for today, I will do one good deed and not tell anyone about it." The hidden nature of a good deed is a sign that it is truly loving. This week, take on St. John XXIII's practical method of following Jesus' great commandment of love. It's a splendid way to say, "I love you."

— Father John Muir



PERHAPS A FEW BENJAMINS CAN CHANGE
YOUR MIND, EH?

MINISTRY SCHEDULE	
	Lectors
<u>May 18:</u>	Greg Gough, Katie Goins
<u>May 25:</u>	Jacques Williams, Wayne Stephens
<u>June 1:</u>	Layson Brooks, Jerry Fuchs
	Eucharistic Ministers
<u>May 18:</u>	Holly Hollis, Cindy Clark, Misty Sanford
<u>May 25:</u>	Janet Clark, Katie Goins, Greg Gough
<u>June 1:</u>	Denise & Greg Richardson, Michelle Jones
	Collection & Gifts
<u>May 18:</u>	Joyce Moorman, Ron Moor man
<u>May 25:</u>	Chelis, Britney, Kyler Carmona
<u>June 1:</u>	Barbara Hammond, Wonet Taylor

Laugh of the Week

A man down on his luck went into a church which catered to the “uppity.” Spotting the man’s dirty clothes a deacon, worried about the church’s image, went to the man and asked him if he needed help. The man said, “I was praying and the Lord told me to come to this church.” The deacon suggested the man go pray some more and he might get a different answer. The next Sunday the man returned. The deacon asked, “Did you get a different answer?” The man replied, “Yes I did. I told the Lord they don’t want me in that church and the Lord said, ’Don’t worry about it son; I’ve been trying to get into that church for years and haven’t made it yet.

Mini Reflection: When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

Resembling Jesus
I once wrote an article about several women residents of a local nursing home. In researching the piece, I discovered that they had grown up in the same neighborhood as my grandmother, and that one of the women was, in fact, my grandmother’s dearest childhood friend.

When I visited this woman to take her photograph, she took a long look at my face, and I could see in her eyes that she was reaching back in her memory across the years. She said: “You resemble her.” I wept on the way home.

My grandmother died when I was nine, and for the last several years of her life she suffered from Alzheimer’s disease. I have always deeply grieved the time we lost, the relationship we could have had. I have hazy fragments of memory from before her illness that lead me to believe we loved each other very much.

Being told I look like my grandmother by someone who knew her well — being identified as belonging to her in some way — was one of the more beautiful things to happen to me.

When we love someone, we want to be associated with them. We want to be recognized as *theirs* somehow. And if we love Christ, we should want to be known as belonging to him. We should want those who see us to know we are his.

The only way we can resemble Jesus is through love. It is his most recognizable quality, his most famous trait. *This is how all will know that you are my disciples.*

As Catholics, we are always talking about finding ways to live our faith boldly, unapologetically, publicly. Good — we should! But if we want people to know we are Catholic, we should love them. Bravely. Recklessly. Sacrificially.

As he loves us.

Readings for the Week	
Monday:	Acts 14:5-18/Ps 115:1-4, 15-16/Jn 14:21-26
Tuesday:	Acts 14:19-28/Ps 145:10-13, 21/Jn 14:27-31a
Wednesday:	Acts 15:1-6/Ps 122:1-5/Jn 15:1-8
Thursday:	Acts 15:7-21/Ps 96:1-3, 10/Jn 15:9-11
Friday:	Acts 15:22-31/Ps 57:8-10 and 12/Jn 15:12-17
Saturday:	Acts 16:1-10/Ps 100:1-3, 5/Jn 15:18-21

Observances for the week of May 18

Tuesday:	St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest
Wednesday:	St. Christopher Magallanes, and Companions, Martyrs
Thursday:	St. Rita of Cascia, Religious

WAYS OF LOVE

One can feel the energy of a young, growing church in today’s first reading. For Paul and Barnabas, it’s smooth sailing. For the sponsoring church at Antioch, good news. The second reading--a vision--offers a picture of triumph, pure and simple. We might paraphrase God’s direct words to read: “Don’t you see? I make all thing new!”

The young church remains new and young to this day if and when it follows the command Jesus lays down in the Gospel: “Love one another.” The attitude and actions of love define the disciples and identify them with their master. Every person on this earth can be a disciple. For discipleship does not depend on learning or sophistication or age or arcane knowledge of secret cults. We are asked to study and practice the ways of love, right here and right ow in the company of ordinary people

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Why do Catholics genuflect?

Answer:
Genuflection is an act of devotion that literally means “to bend the knee.” For many Catholics, it’s an almost automatic gesture that we perform before entering our pew or row of seats at Mass. But, like many of the symbols and gestures of our faith tradition, genuflecting can also be an invitation for deeper reflection.

The practice of “bending the knee” is an ancient way of recognizing the presence of someone greater than we are. It has been said that the practice dates back to the time of Alexander the Great, but it became a common part of etiquette in the royal courts of the Middle Ages. From throne rooms and palaces, it was a small step to genuflecting becoming part of the devotional lives of Christians, who used this secular gesture as a way of recognizing the presence of the One who is King of Kings, especially in the Eucharist.

Today, Catholics are asked to genuflect in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament (whether in the tabernacle or exposed on the altar during Eucharistic adoration). So, while it has become second nature to genuflect before entering your seat in church, we should pay attention to where the Blessed Sacrament is kept in each church or chapel that we visit, and genuflect in the direction of the tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. In churches or chapels in which the tabernacle is in a separate space, we are invited to simply bow toward the altar. ©LPi